

II. — THE DEPOSITIONS IN THE
ENQMJBH
ADMIRALTY COURT,

*The Depositions in the
Admiralty Court as to the
Fight at San yuan de Ulua,
and the English losses there
sustained ^ Marchj 1569,*



THESE are preserved in *State Papers, Dom. Ehz. Jtdy*, 1569, Vol. 53, in the Public Record Office, London ; and throw a flood of light on many incidents of the fight, and on the prices of Negroes and other " wares " In the West Indies at this time.

The Depositions were made to eleven Interrogatories, and to a Schedule of values consisting of twenty-seven Items. The answers vary in importance as in fulness, according to the opportunities and position of the several Deponents in the fleet The whole purpose of the Depositions was to get up the biggest possible bill against the King of Spain for the injuries received; as a justification and groundwork for further attacks on him : as DRAKE thought and afterwards did, see *p.* 494.

We first give the testimony of one of the earliest of English traffickers in Spanish ships, to Mexico ; but who, however, was *not* with HAWKINS in any of these Voyages. His deposition was evidently made to show, by an *independent* and competent authority, what were the current prices at Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico, of such goods as HAWKINS had been spoiled of at San Juan de Ulua.

Principally, from this witness, WILLIAM FOWLER, we get the following table of monetary values, on the basis, as monetary unit, of the *Rial de Plata*, the "Rial of Silver" then roughly considered as equal to the English Sixpence (*See Vol. III. p.* 184).